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Botanical Notes, 1917-1918.

FRANK U. G. AGRELIUS.

As late as October 22, 1917, we observed the following plants in bloom at what is an unusual date:

Diervilla florida Sieb. & Zucc. (*Weigela rosea* of the garden).

Viola pedata Linn.

Spiræa trilobata Linn. (*Spiræa Van Houttei* of the catalogues).

The ordinary dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale* Weber, did not bloom and produce seed during every winter month this season, as it did the winter of 1916-'17. We observed certain facts in connection with this bothersome pest during the summers of 1916 and 1917, in the Rocky Mountains. Here in Kansas it is more or less vexatious. In Colorado it is a serious mischiefmaker in some places, especially in the higher meadows of the alpine region. Where the farmers have previously been able to secure a considerable amount of hay or pasturage, there is practically nothing but dandelions. It is the "English sparrow" of the plant kingdom. And its end is not yet.

POLYCOTYLEDONY OF ANGIOSPERMS.

For some time we have been interested in noting the presence of three cotyledons in certain young plants or seedlings. We found this to be true occasionally in the tomato, especially in some varieties. We marked these plants, intending to observe them later, and to determine whether this characteristic would show any sign of being hereditary. Through oversight and accident we lost these specimens. We have observed none in some tomato seedlings this spring. A former student last year observed this phenomenon in some bean seedlings. Notwithstanding several untoward events, he succeeded in growing one pod to maturity and has promised me the seeds for testing this year. We hope to have some further data on this later.

Kansas State Normal School, Emporia.

The Common Rocks and Gem Stones of Kansas, and How to Recognize Them.

M. M. SCHMIDT.

This paper is not written for the professional mineralogist, but for the everyday student and layman who has not the time nor the means to delve deep into the technical study of the large variety and classes of rocks and gem stones that come to his sight, and yet would like to have some rule or guide whereby he could name and recognize the abundance God has planted in the earth's crust or exposed to his view. There is no one, however disinterested he may be, who has not at some time wondered what some fine colored specimen was that chanced to come to his sight. Rocks fascinate most of us. I can remember quite distinctly when a small boy, I strolled through our pasture and picked up the many beautiful specimens of colored stones and wondered what their